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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
TOWN OFFICERS
OF

MASON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

For The Year Ending December 31

1997

Photograph-Courtesy of Mason Historical Society

We are not sure of the date this picture was taken. It is interesting to see the corner of the school, the road not much more than a wagon road, the house at the end of the Church driveway, and the Church in the background. The large house on the left belonged to the Rhoades family and burned down probably near the early 1940's. Curt Dunn can remember his Uncle Harold (Miller) and other men up on the roof of the nearby Town Hall wetting it down, as it was very near the burning building. Charles Crathern (long time Town Clerk) later built a house for his daughter on the same spot, now owned by Ivan and Lil Johnson.

Art work-thanks to Lisa Malboeuf.

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SELECTMEN'S REPORT - 1997

The year 1997, as with previous years, was quiet with business as usual. The Selectmen made a great effort to meet the needs of the town and the citizens at the lowest cost possible, without jeopardizing services.

The tax dollars are divided with 25% spent for the town, 67% spent for the school and 8% for the County. The tax rate did drop a little due to the effort of the Financial Advisory Committee, Department heads and the Board of Selectmen. The school portion of taxes was reduced from the previous year due to a decrease in the number of pupils from 198.1 to 193.9 and a "default" budget increase voted by ballot.

Volunteerism is at a low ebb. In order to keep the taxes down and services up to the present level, we need citizens to volunteer their time and talents, or be willing to work for a small stipend. Anyone interested, may contact Barbara in the Selectmen's Office.

We were deeply saddened by ex-Selectman Cliff Hastings' passing. We will always remember him as a very dedicated Selectman. Thank you Cliff.

The Selectmen have continued to attend various meetings and training sessions in an effort to keep updated in regulations and procedures which pertain to the operation of the town and selectmen's office.

The Selectmen appointed Fire Chief David Cook as Emergency Management Director. The Fire Department is well equipped to handle major disasters as was demonstrated during the Blizzard of December 1996. The Fire Station was utilized as a shelter and an incident command center for four days. Our belief is that the Town needs only one incident command center. The Fire Station is fully equipped with radios and emergency equipment. We expect this move to save tax dollars. Thank you Dave for wearing another hat. The Selectmen extend thanks to Edward Hamel for his time of service as the Emergency Management Director.

The Selectmen wish to express sincere appreciation to all who served on various boards or committees for small stipends and those who served as volunteers. To the heads of departments: Police, Fire and Highway, we thank you for taking such good care of the town. Our Administrative Assistant, Barbara Milkovits has kept us on our feet for another year. She has kept things running smoothly, making the Selectmen's job easier. Thank you, Barbara.

Sincerely,

Anne Richards

Kenneth Greene

Wolfgang Millbrandt

TOWN OFFICE HOURS AND MEETINGS

SELECTMEN

Office Hours: Mann House, 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
Monday through Thursday

Meetings: Mann House, 7:30 P.M.
Second and Fourth Tuesday of the month.

Telephone: 878-2070

TOWN CLERK

Office Hours: Mann House, Tuesday 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Thursday 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon
Thursday Evening, 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Telephone: 878-2070

PLANNING BOARD

Meetings: Mann House, 7:30 P.M.
Last Wednesday of the month

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Office Hours: Mann House, 7:00 P.M.
Every Tuesday
By Appointment

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Meetings: Mann House, 7:30 P.M.
Third Monday of the month

WILTON RECYCLING CENTER HOURS

Hours: Tuesday 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Thursday 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Saturday 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Sunday 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.



ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS

MODERATOR 2 yr term

Catherine Schwenk	March 1998
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TOWN CLERK 3 yr term

Charlotte N. Hastings	March 1999
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DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Diane M. Meehan, Appointed	March 1999
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TREASURER 3 yr term

Jeanne Hamel	March 1999
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DEPUTY TREASURER

Maria Eaton, Appointed	March 1999
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SELECTMEN 3 yr term

Anne Richards, Chairman	March 1999
Kenneth Greene	March 2000
Wolfgang Millbrandt	March 1998

TAX COLLECTOR 3 yr term

Charlotte N. Hastings	March 1999
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DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR

Diane M. Meehan, Appointed	March 1999
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AUDITOR 1 yr term

David Evans, Appointed	March 1998
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SUPERVISORS OF CHECK LIST 6 yr term

Constance Lacasse, Chairman, resigned	March 2000
Linda Goss	March 1998
Linda LeBlanc	March 2002
Sandra LeCLair, Appointed	March 1998

LIBRARY TRUSTEES 3 yr term

Susanne Wolpert, Appointed	March 1998
Lynne McCann	March 2000
Mary Calderan	March 1999

TRUSTEES OF CEMETERIES 3 yr term

Robert Larochele	March 2000
Wallace A. Brown	March 1998
Arthur Rafter	March 1999

TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS 3 yr term

James Losee	March 1999
Reverend Bonnie Evans, resigned	March 1998
Barbara Schulze, appointed	March 1998
George Schwenk	March 2000

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICERS

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Irene Cook, Chairman	March 1999
David Profit	March 1999
Robert Larochelle	March 1999
Gretchen West	March 2000

PLANNING BOARD

Robert Griffin, Chairman, resigned	March 1999
Bruce Mann, Chairman	March 1998
William Downs	March 1999
Garth Fletcher, Alternate	March 1999
Dennis Meehan	March 1998
Don MacIntosh	March 2000
Constance Lacasse, Clerk	
Anne Richards, Ex-officio	

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Robert Bergeron	March 1998
Michael Davieau	March 1998
David Eaton, Alternate	March 1998
Jeanne Hamel, Clerk & Alternate	March 1999
Ulysses Shields	March 2000
Edward Hamel	March 2000
Kenneth Greene, Ex-officio	

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Robert Larochelle, Chairman	March 2000
Elizabeth Fletcher	March 1999
Edith Griffin	March 2000
Charles Lanni	March 2000
Florence Roberts	March 1999

FORESTRY COMMITTEE

Curtis Dunn, Chairman	March 2000
Eric Anderson	March 1999
Florence Roberts	March 1999
William Downs, Town Forester	March 1998
Kenneth Greene, Ex-officio	

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Cynthia Budrewicz, Chairman	March 2000
Paula Babel	March 2000
Wallace A. Brown	March 1998
Gretchen West	March 1999

BALLOT CLERKS

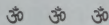
Pauline Bergeron	March 2000
Sandra LeClair, resigned	March 1999
Teri Parker	March 2000
Florence Wilson	March 1998

POLICE OFFICERS

Robert L. Malboeuf	Police Chief
Vint Boggis, resigned	Full Time Sergeant
John Dube	Patrolman
Michael Farrey	Special Police Officer
John LeBlanc, Sr.	Special Police Officer

EMERGENCY SERVICES

David P. Cook	Fire Chief/EMT/Warden
Cheryl Greenwood	EMT-D/EMS Coordinator
David Baker	First Asst. Chief/Deputy Warden
Robert A. Bergeron	Second Asst. Chief/Deputy Warden
Frederick W. Greenwood	Captain/Deputy Warden
Rodney Stedman	First Lieutenant/Deputy Warden
Roland Theriault	Second Lieutenant
Marcel Bernier	Firefighter
Michael Blum	Firefighter
Wallace A. Brown	Firefighter/Deputy Warden/Waterhole Committee
John Dube	Firefighter/EMT-D
Curtis M. Dunn	Deputy Warden
Francis Gavin	Firefighter
Patricia G. Greene	EMT-I-D
Christopher Greenwood	Firefighter
Edward Hamel	Firefighter, EMT-D
Charles Lanni	Firefighter
John LeBlanc, Sr.	EMT-D
Robert L. Malboeuf	EMT-D
Bernard O'Grady	Firefighter
Philip Phalon, Jr.	Firefighter, First Responder
Anne Richards	Firefighter
Donna Richardson	Firefighter/EMT-D
Mark Richardson	Firefighter
Stuart Sherman	Firefighter/EMT-D
Stephen Tamulonis	Firefighter
Cindy Tibbetts	EMT-D



Curtis M. Dunn	ROAD AGENT
David P. Cook	ASSISTANT ROAD AGENT
Kenneth B. Wilson	BUILDING INSPECTOR
Florence Wilson	TOWN BUILDING CUSTODIAN
Edward Hamel	CIVIL DEFENSE DIRECTOR
Jeanne Hamel	DEPUTY CIVIL DEFENSE
Kenneth B. Wilson	HOUSE NUMBERING AGENT
William Downs	TOWN FORESTER
Frederick Greenwood	ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER
Wallace Brown	SEXTON
Carol Fisette	HEALTH OFFICER
Kenneth B. Wilson	DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER

MASON TOWN WARRANT

The State of New Hampshire

The polls will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at: Mason Town Hall

To the inhabitants of the Town of Mason, in the County of Hillsborough, in said State, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to come to the polling place at the Town Hall in Mason at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, the 10th day of March, 1998, for the election of Town officers pursuant to Article 1 of this Warrant, bringing in your ballots for the following:

Selectman	3 years
Auditor	1 year
Library Trustee	3 years
Supervisor of the Checklist	2 years
Supervisor of the Checklist	6 years
Trustee of Cemeteries	3 years
Trustee of the Trust Funds	3 years

The polls will be open continuously until 7 p.m. when they shall close. You are hereby notified also to meet at 8 p.m. of the same day and at the same place to act upon Articles of this Warrant.

1. To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing terms.
2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or borrowing, or otherwise the sum of Seven hundred ten thousand three hundred ninety-four dollars (\$710,394) which represents the operating budget. Said Sum is exclusive of all Special Articles addressed.
3. To see if the Town will vote to ratify and affirm the authority of the Selectmen to enter into that lease agreement for the purposes of leasing a 1997 GMC vehicle for the Police Department. Recommended by Selectmen (3-0).
4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to upgrade the higher volume gravel roads to paved roads, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen (2 1/2 - 1/2).
5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty thousand dollars, over a three year period, for the purchase, set up and installation of the radio frequency link for the communication system. For the first year, Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) of the Thirty thousand dollars is to come from general taxation, the remainder of the balance, Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), for the second and third years, is to come from borrowing, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen (3-0).
6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen (3-0 or 0-3 if Article 7 passes).
7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventeen thousand dollars (\$17,000) for the purchase of a pickup truck for the Highway Department, or take

- any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen (3-0).
8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirteen thousand dollars (\$13,000) to be added to the Forestry Committee Fund previously established and to authorize the use/transfer from the December 31, 1997 Fund balance of a portion of the amounts received from the settlement of the timber trespass on Town Lot F-41 for this purpose. Recommended by Selectmen (3-0).
 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve thousand five hundred dollars (\$12,500) to be added to the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, previously established, for the future purchase of a fire truck, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen (3-0).
 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight thousand five hundred dollars (\$8500) for the construction of a handicap access ramp and porch to the Mann House and removal of the library elevator to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen (2 $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1/4).
 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven thousand dollars (\$7000) for the purchase of a new snowplow for the Highway Department's dump truck, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen (3-0).
 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five thousand fifty dollars (\$5050) for the purchase of two new air packs and ten new face pieces, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen (3-0).
 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two thousand dollars (\$2000) to replace the highway radar for car # 2 of the Police Department, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen (3-0).
 14. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two thousand dollars (\$2000) for the purchase of computer equipment and software for the Town Office, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen (3-0).
 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One thousand one hundred dollars (\$1100) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established and to authorize the use/transfer from the December 31, 1997 Fund balance of a portion of the amounts received from the sale of surplus Highway Department Equipment for this purpose. Recommended by Selectmen (3-0).
 16. To see if the Town will vote to accept the donation of the hydraulic rescue tool from the Mason Volunteer Fire Department Association (to be dedicated to the memory of Clifton Hastings), or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen (3-0).
 17. To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Cemetery Land Improvement Capital Reserve Fund created in 1989 as the Cemetery Land Purchase Capital Reserve Fund. Said Funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the Town's General Fund, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen (3-0).
 18. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen and the Road Agent to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Highway Department, or take any other action relative thereto. Recommended by Selectmen (3-0).

2/20/98	1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		Change
APPROPRIATIONS	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget		98/97
Town Officers' Salaries											
Selectmen	2,925	2,925	2,925	2,925	2,925	2,925	2,925	2,925	2,925	2,925	0.0%
Town Clerk	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	0.0%
Treasurer	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	0.0%
Auditor	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	0.0%
Moderator	300	300	100	100	300	300	100	100	200	200	100.0%
	4,625	4,625	4,425	4,425	4,625	4,625	4,425	4,425	4,525	4,525	2.3%
Fees in Lieu of Salaries											
Tax Collector	7,250	7,806	7,250	7,610	7,250	7,562	7,250	7,180	7,250	7,250	0.0%
Town Clerk	3,000	2,999	3,000	4,870	3,000	4,003	3,000	6,828	3,000	3,000	0.0%
	10,250	10,805	10,250	12,480	10,250	11,565	10,250	14,008	10,250	10,250	0.0%
Administration											
Administrative Ass't	16,758	16,731	17,160	17,133	17,960	17,958	18,590	18,584	19,300	19,300	3.8%
Payroll taxes	2,850	2,736	2,850	2,876	2,950	2,801	3,050	3,066	3,050	3,050	0.0%
Health insurance	6,030	5,965	5,966	5,965	6,200	6,128	6,200	6,000	5,710	5,710	-7.9%
Workers comp.	893	766	850	672	850	804	850	576	850	850	0.0%
Advertising	75	43	65	0	65	29	65	82	70	70	7.7%
Bank service charges	400	678	650	807	675	641	525	622	575	575	9.5%
Association dues	50	35	50	55	55	35	55	35	55	55	0.0%
State Dog Fees	0	508		544	0	608	0	586	0	0	
Bonds	650	0	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Conferences	600	994	600	567	600	120	600	160	600	600	0.0%
Computer services	1,700	1,561	1,700	1,595	1,700	1,681	1,700	1,832	1,700	1,700	0.0%
Mileage	150	269	200	204	200	358	250	126	250	250	0.0%
Contingency	200	190	200	138	200	717	200	99	200	200	0.0%
Postage	900	930	1,000	1,088	1,100	1,101	1,200	1,036	1,200	1,200	0.0%
Registry fees	250	341	250	244	250	223	250	256	250	250	0.0%
Repairs & maintenance	300	180	200	151	200	514	200	754	500	500	150.0%
Retirement Ins	810	824	858	849	872	897	915	916	960	960	4.9%
Office supplies	1,200	1,525	1,200	1,330	1,300	1,758	1,350	1,299	1,550	1,550	14.8%
Telephone	750	682	750	714	750	685	700	650	650	650	-7.1%
Town reports	650	624	650	624	700	689	700	811	860	860	22.9%
	35,216	35,580	35,699	35,557	36,627	37,747	37,400	37,490	38,330	38,330	2.5%

2/20/98	1994	1994	1995	1995	1996	1996	1997	1997	1998	Change
APPROPRIATIONS	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	98/97
Cemetery Expenses										
Cemetery maintenance	1,000	1,295	1,500	1,119	1,500	2,038	1,500	1,792	1,500	0.0%
Cemetery salaries	5,500	5,694	5,500	5,708	6,350	6,574	6,550	5,874	7,000	6.9%
Payroll taxes	421	424	421	436	500	503	500	542	540	8.0%
Workers comp.	810	810	930	909	600	595	600	509	700	16.7%
	7,731	8,223	8,351	8,172	8,950	9,710	9,150	8,717	9,740	6.4%
Reappraisal of Property										
Assessing	5,200	5,220	6,200	5,200	5,200	2,640	3,000	2,398	2,500	-16.7%
Tax map update	500	465	485	485	485	485	485	255	485	0.0%
	5,700	5,685	6,685	5,685	5,685	3,125	3,485	2,653	2,985	-14.3%
Town Building Expenses										
Custodian salaries	3,800	3,575	3,800	3,750	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,708	3,800	0.0%
Supplies	100	27	125	107	125	117	125	99	125	0.0%
Heat	2,200	1,651	2,200	1,645	2,200	2,395	2,200	2,298	2,200	0.0%
Electricity	1,600	1,949	2,000	2,108	2,100	1,857	2,100	2,015	2,100	0.0%
Repairs & maintenance	2,500	2,152	2,500	2,905	3,000	2,316	3,000	6,073	3,500	16.7%
	10,200	9,355	10,625	10,516	11,225	10,485	11,225	14,192	11,725	4.5%
Employment/Insurance Expenses										
Accident/Health Insurance	1,968	1,932	1,968	1,750	1,930	1,744	2,100	2,666	2,550	21.4%
Unemployment taxes	1,000	812	700	667	700	634	700	713	700	0.0%
Liability insurance	23,000	20,309	22,000	20,391	23,000	22,003	23,000	21,544	23,000	0.0%
	25,968	23,053	24,668	22,808	25,630	24,381	25,800	24,923	26,250	1.7%
Planning & Zoning										
Salaries	1,400	665	1,200	1,165	1,200	815	1,200	1,548	900	-25.0%
Payroll taxes	100	50	92	89	92	62	92	109	70	-23.9%
Advertising	400	240	300	350	300	199	280	361	280	0.0%
Training	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	130	
Board of Adjustment	50	102	50	264	500	994	900	0	423	-53.0%
Historic District Commission	50	0	50	68	50	10	50	0	10	-80.0%
SW Reg Planning/Consulting	1,220	1,220	1,370	1,361	1,370	1,814	1,382	1,520	1,390	0.6%
Supplies	150	108	150	339	150	268	150	309	150	0.0%
Postage	150	118	150	125	150	32	150	304	150	0.0%
	3,570	2,503	3,362	3,762	3,812	4,194	4,204	4,149	3,503	-16.7%

2/20/98	1994	1994	1995	1995	1996	1996	1997	1997	1998	Change
APPROPRIATIONS	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	98/97
Building Inspection										
Bldg inspector-fees	1,000	1,137	1,000	732	1,000	832	1,000	1,691	1,000	0.0%
Payroll taxes	77	88	77	62	77	64	77	124	77	0.0%
Expenses	200	192	300	257	300	352	300	120	300	0.0%
	1,277	1,417	1,377	1,051	1,377	1,248	1,377	1,935	1,377	0.0%
Health & Welfare										
Health officer	25	0	25	0	25	0	25	0	25	0.0%
Animal control	500	474	2,000	2,675	2,000	2,077	2,000	1,195	2,000	0.0%
Town poor	2,000	1,398	2,000	0	2,000	585	2,000	0	2,000	0.0%
Visiting nurse	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
	4,025	3,372	5,525	4,175	5,525	4,162	5,525	2,695	5,525	0.0%
Ambulance										
Ambulance Service Fee	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,675	3,675	3,675	3,675	3,675	0.0%
Supplies	1,000	1,999	1,000	970	1,000	1,000	1,000	814	1,000	0.0%
Training	1,000		1,000	318	1,000	1,000	1,200	530	1,200	0.0%
	5,500	5,499	5,500	4,788	5,675	5,675	5,875	5,019	5,875	0.0%
Library										
Library salaries	15,315	15,315	15,744	15,741	16,180	16,180	16,535	16,597	17,480	5.7%
Payroll taxes	1,172	1,178	1,205	1,199	1,240	1,238	1,265	1,269	1,338	5.8%
Worker's Comp.	66	66	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	0.0%
Dues, fees & educ	505	436	620	607	620	536	720	688	820	13.9%
Equipment maintenance	0	0	0	0	0	0	55	67	0	-100.0%
Postage	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	0.0%
Programming	125	122	125	125	225	225	125	125	125	0.0%
Matching Funds			150	125	150	150	0	0	0	
Supplies	175	174	175	175	325	325	400	404	400	0.0%
Telephone	409	370	420	400	420	490	1,050	1,036	1,050	0.0%
Copymachine					460		0	0	0	
Travel	190	190	210	210	230	215	230	230	230	0.0%
Books	2,000	1,998	2,000	2,001	2,500	2,507	2,500	2,507	2,500	0.0%
	20,032	19,925	20,784	20,717	22,485	22,001	23,015	23,059	24,078	4.6%

2/20/98	1994		1995		1996		1997		1998	Change
APPROPRIATIONS	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	98/97
Parks & Recreation										
Grounds improvements/repairs	220	468	300	519	300	150	300	90	300	0.0%
Lawn supplies	300	214	300	139	300	0	250	110	250	0.0%
Mowing	600	469	600	302	600	330	600	315	600	0.0%
Recreation area expenses	240	280	300	16	300	223	325	26	325	0.0%
Stone dust	250	0	250	225	250	0	200	0	200	0.0%
Toilet facilities	75	50	125	30	125	80	125	90	125	0.0%
Trash removal	60	93	80	89	90	60	90	60	90	0.0%
Activities/Rec day	350	402	450	378	450	564	600	353	600	0.0%
Patriotic purposes	400	399	500	498	600	551	500	500	600	20.0%
Electricity					60	62	85	50	85	0.0%
Street lighting	860	902	926	951	960	984	1,000	1,002	1,000	0.0%
Town common	2,700	2,727	2,700	2,727	2,850	2,939	3,850	3,792	3,850	0.0%
Payroll taxes	207	203	207	183	220	207	300	236	300	0.0%
Worker's Comp	317	341	317	300	317	277	400	300	400	0.0%
	6,579	6,548	7,055	6,356	7,422	6,427	8,625	6,924	8,725	1.2%
Water Hole										
Water hole & dry hyd	1,000	304	1,000	800	1,000	0	1,000	0	1,000	0.0%
House & water hole #'s	100	100	125	125	125	125	385	325	182	-52.7%
	1,100	404	1,125	925	1,125	125	1,385	325	1,182	-14.7%
New Hampshire Municipal Asso.										
Wilton Recycling Center	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	0.0%
Communication Expenses	32,887	30,536	31,089	31,089	29,040	29,040	39,063	31,803	27,429	-29.8%
Legal Expenses	23,787	23,785	32,594	32,594	41,594	38,990	19,500	19,415	19,500	0.0%
Civil Defense	3,000	0	5,000	5,739	5,000	7,053	5,000	2,928	3,500	-30.0%
	50	0	50	11	100	100	100	184	100	0.0%
Conservation Commission	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	6,328	1,500	0.0%
Election Expenses	800	752	689	413	2,200	1,352	500	504	800	60.0%
Town Forestry Committee			7,500	7,697	750	1,337	750	532	750	0.0%
*Conservation overexpenditure was paid out of the Conservation Fund										

2/20/98	1994	1994	1995	1995	1996	1996	1997	1997	1998	Change
APPROPRIATIONS	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	98/97
Highway Town Maintenance										
Road agent salary	31,332	31,284	32,525	32,490	33,643	33,480	35,550	35,267	36,350	2.3%
Asst road agent salary	26,322	26,296	27,117	27,107	27,930	24,404	28,778	28,778	29,866	3.8%
Equipment operator	22,415	21,834	23,096	22,367	23,798	23,695	24,521	22,065	25,266	3.0%
Other salaries	27,500	34,017	30,000	33,698	32,000	34,170	34,640	42,381	39,140	13.0%
Overtime wages	11,000	8,518	11,000	11,883	13,500	15,946	11,500	10,648	11,800	2.6%
Payroll taxes	9,071	9,263	9,470	9,895	9,860	10,192	10,350	10,778	10,898	5.3%
Health insurance	12,969	12,855	13,408	12,856	14,534	10,941	12,800	11,067	12,020	-6.1%
Alcohol and drug testing					400	270	400	230	350	-12.5%
Workers comp.	14,459	13,625	13,000	10,066	13,370	13,164	16,750	13,345	17,125	2.2%
Retirement	4,750	4,524	4,750	4,636	4,800	5,062	4,300	4,185	5,140	19.5%
Consulting engineer	200	0	200	0	200	0	250	0	250	0.0%
Mileage	1,850	1,722	2,000	2,033	2,000	2,191	2,500	1,962	2,500	0.0%
Fire equipment rental	350	0	350	65	350	364	500	117	500	0.0%
Calcium chloride	10,000	10,264	11,000	11,067	11,500	11,395	12,500	12,473	12,500	0.0%
Crusher	4,000	0	5,000	5,153	5,000	5,100	5,000	5,370	5,000	0.0%
Culverts	1,000	513	1,000	0	1,000	868	2,000	2,846	1,500	-25.0%
Oil - pug mill	5,500	5,360	5,500	5,500	7,000	7,001	7,000	8,008	9,000	28.6%
Oil - sealing	11,500	11,536	14,000	16,277	13,500	10,772	15,500	15,620	17,000	9.7%
Patch	2,000	2,078	2,000	2,244	2,500	2,240	2,500	3,027	2,000	-20.0%
Salt	4,000	3,649	5,500	5,332	5,000	4,520	4,000	4,216	4,500	12.5%
Tractor rental	150	0	0	84	100	84	100	23	100	0.0%
Truck rentals	300	0	300	450	200	0	200	0	200	0.0%
Plowing	16,000	13,729	11,000	8,025	14,000	15,210	13,000	9,633	13,000	0.0%
Expenditures against insurance settlement								1,829		
Signs & Rewards							500	585	1,000	100.0%
	216,668	211,066	222,216	221,226	236,185	231,069	245,139	244,451	257,005	4.8%
Highway Dept. Expenses										
Building maintenance	3,000	3,306	4,000	3,371	3,000	4,341	3,000	2,482	3,000	0.0%
Chains	600	198	600	534	600	581	600	590	500	-16.7%
Chainsaw repairs	400	36	600	567	600	35	400	555	300	-25.0%
Dues, education and misc	600	190	500	752	600	851	800	708	800	0.0%
Edges for plows & graders	1,200	1,101	1,200	1,295	1,500	1,721	1,500	1,840	1,800	20.0%

2/20/98	1994		1995		1996		1997		1998	Change
APPROPRIATIONS	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	98/97
Highway ...										
Electricity	1,800	1,764	2,050	2,003	2,200	2,060	2,300	2,217	2,300	0.0%
Equipment maintenance	15,000	22,793	17,000	17,469	18,000	21,509	18,000	17,999	16,000	-11.1%
Fuel	11,000	9,736	11,000	10,750	11,000	11,599	11,000	10,962	11,000	0.0%
Radios	800	547	800	733	1,000	1,039	1,000	744	1,500	50.0%
Telephone	850	877	1,000	930	1,000	969	1,000	1,025	1,000	0.0%
Tires	2,500	879	2,500	2,905	2,000	1,688	2,000	2,616	2,500	25.0%
Safety equipment	1,000	1,077	1,000	1,174	1,200	1,602	1,200	1,353	1,200	0.0%
Tools	800	1,154	800	876	800	1,001	800	780	1,000	25.0%
Welding supplies	400	253	300	309	400	584	400	380	500	25.0%
Subtotal	39,950	43,910	43,350	43,668	43,900	49,580	44,000	44,252	43,400	-1.4%
Total Highway Expenses	256,618	254,976	265,566	264,894	280,085	280,649	289,139	288,703	300,405	3.9%
Police Department										
Chief's salary	33,589	33,589	34,597	34,597	35,635	35,634	36,703	36,703	38,725	5.5%
Fulltime Officer	19,240	18,903	20,680	18,980	26,600	26,600	29,600	27,724	27,000	-8.8%
Third Officer							14,200	12,416	0	-100.0%
Officers' & other salaries	9,028	9,040	9,028	11,129	12,900	16,809	14,400	17,095	23,000	59.7%
Payroll taxes	1,457	1,472	1,493	1,779	1,890	2,222	2,300	2,486	2,720	18.3%
Health insurance	8,585	8,462	8,494	8,688	12,770	12,924	14,970	12,103	11,685	-21.9%
Workers comp.	3,525	3,525	4,000	3,797	3,150	3,102	3,880	3,799	3,500	-9.8%
Retirement	2,642	1,904	2,212	1,562	2,490	1,832	3,000	2,605	3,200	6.7%
Conventions & dues	200	240	200	150	200	175	200	300	300	50.0%
Cruiser fuel	2,000	2,261	2,350	2,452	2,500	2,571	2,500	2,836	3,000	20.0%
Cruiser maintenance	2,000	2,526	2,500	3,375	2,500	4,166	3,000	4,511	3,000	0.0%
Cruiser lease	6,900	6,893	6,900	7,090	9,240	9,240	9,240	8,939	8,520	-7.8%
Office expenses	2,000	2,160	2,250	2,807	2,750	3,240	3,000	2,830	3,000	0.0%
Training	1,000	1,010	1,000	543	2,000	1,841	2,000	940	2,000	0.0%
Uniforms	1,000	1,090	1,000	1,049	1,000	1,506	1,500	1,520	1,500	0.0%
Equipment & maintenance	1,000	1,461	1,000	1,579	1,000	1,070	2,000	1,906	2,500	25.0%
Reports & permits	500	298	500	484	500	198	500	277	500	0.0%
	94,666	94,836	98,204	100,059	117,125	123,130	142,993	138,990	134,150	-6.2%

2/20/98	1994		1994		1995		1995		1996		1996		1997		1997		1998		Change
APPROPRIATIONS	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	98/97	
Fire Department																			
Fire Chief's salary	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%	
Other Stipends	6,000	6,000	6,000	5,690	5,750	5,690	5,750	5,750	5,750	5,750	5,750	5,750	5,750	5,750	5,750	5,750	5,750	0.0%	
Warden training	50	60	60	75	75	0	75	0	75	0	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
Workers comp.	700	600	600	990	990	840	990	802	990	802	990	809	990	809	990	809	990	0.0%	
Utilities	2,500	2,514	2,514	2,600	2,600	2,279	2,800	2,370	2,800	2,370	2,800	2,588	3,000	2,588	3,000	2,588	3,000	7.1%	
Telephone	800	718	718	800	800	703	800	633	800	633	800	653	800	653	800	653	800	0.0%	
Radio repair	800	786	786	800	800	808	800	785	800	785	1,000	998	1,000	998	1,000	998	1,000	0.0%	
Fuel	1,000	700	700	750	750	586	750	690	750	690	750	1,029	750	1,029	750	1,029	750	0.0%	
Code books	250	246	246	250	250	103	150	20	150	20	150	163	200	163	200	163	200	33.3%	
Training	1,200	1,081	1,081	1,200	1,200	1,075	1,200	1,752	1,200	1,752	1,400	1,385	1,400	1,385	1,400	1,385	1,400	0.0%	
Equipment & Maint	3,500	3,664	3,664	3,500	3,500	3,194	3,500	3,484	3,500	3,484	3,500	3,541	4,000	3,541	4,000	3,541	4,000	14.3%	
Bld maintenance	1,200	1,051	1,051	1,500	1,500	1,473	1,750	2,615	1,750	2,615	2,000	2,210	2,000	2,210	2,000	2,210	2,000	0.0%	
Officers expenses/Dues	600	623	623	1,100	1,100	1,185	1,400	1,360	1,400	1,360	1,400	1,346	1,400	1,346	1,400	1,346	1,400	0.0%	
Insurance	200	190	190	200	200	202	200	221	200	221	250	239	250	239	250	239	250	0.0%	
Vehicle maintenance	4,000	4,021	4,021	4,000	4,000	4,026	4,000	3,906	4,000	3,906	4,000	4,066	4,000	4,066	4,000	4,066	4,000	0.0%	
Expendables	300	285	285	350	350	320	350	371	350	371	350	283	350	283	350	283	350	0.0%	
Hepatitis Vaccine Program	2,000	1,703	1,703	500	500	54	275	112	275	112	275	350	300	350	300	350	300	9.1%	
Subtotal	26,600	25,742	25,742	25,865	25,865	24,038	26,290	26,371	26,290	26,371	26,915	26,909	27,690	26,909	27,690	26,909	27,690	2.9%	
Fire truck bond principal	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
Fire truck bond interest	2,705	2,705	2,705	1,693	1,693	1,693	680	680	680	680	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
Truck engine replacement																			
Total Fire Dept.	44,305	43,447	43,447	42,558	42,558	40,731	36,970	37,051	36,970	37,051	26,915	26,909	27,690	26,909	27,690	26,909	27,690	2.9%	
Interest Tax Notes	15,000	18,844	18,844	18,000	18,000	27,592	40,000	37,000	40,000	37,000	40,000	38,267	40,000	38,267	40,000	38,267	40,000	0.0%	
Abatements & Refunds		4,644	4,644			23,898		1,225		1,225		139,885		139,885		139,885			
Total Appropriations	614,886	610,813	610,813	648,681	648,681	670,436	705,277	704,397	705,277	704,397	717,701	845,463	710,394	845,463	710,394	845,463	710,394	-1.0%	
Increase over prior year	6.38%			5.50%	5.50%		8.72%		8.72%		1.76%		-1.02%		-1.02%		-1.02%		
Total Budget Proposed	608,886			652,078	652,078		701,467		701,467		717,701		710,394		710,394		710,394		
Total Budget Voted	614,886			648,681	648,681		705,277		705,277		717,701		710,394		710,394		710,394		

2/20/98	1994	1994	1995	1995	1996	1997	1997	1998	Change
APPROPRIATIONS	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget	Actual	Budget	98/97
Warrant Articles '94									
94#5 Hwy Loader(93 borrowing)	25,000	25,000							
94#6 Ambulance	11,000	11,000							
94#7 Town Hall Furnace	7,000	6,838							
94#9 Cemetery Capital	5,000	5,000							
94#10 Library Capital	5,000	5,000							
94#12 Hwy Rake	3,000	2,992							
94#14 Town Vapors & Pump	2,500	1,820							
94#15 Sped Evaluation	2,000	0							
94#17 Cemetery/Hwy Transfer	192	192							
	60,892	57,843							
Warrant Articles '95									
95#4 Dump Truck			14,352	27,775					
95#6 Fire Dept Air Tanks			20,000	19,900					
95#7 Police Video			4,800	4,779					
95#8 Police Computer			1,500	1,500					
95#9 Library Books			1,000	1,000					
95#8 Highway Equip From Surp			1,080						
95#9 Cemetery Transfer			83						
			42,815	54,954					
Warrant Articles '96									
96#3 Dump Truck, 2nd payment					14,352		14,352		
96#5 Fire packs, 2nd payment			Transfer (paid in 95)		9,900				
96#6 Fire overhead doors					8,000		7,031		
96#7 Defibrillator					6,950		6,935		
96#8 Highway Equip From Surp					1,926				
96#10 Sander Body			Capital Reserve		6,000		6,000		
96#11 Cemetery Lot Markers			Trust Fund		5,000		4,999		
96#12 Library Computer					3,500		3,498		
96#13 Lawn tractor mower					2,600		2,600		
96#14 Police printer combination					1,000		999		
96#15 Cemetery lot sales					150				
					59,378		46,414		

2/20/98	1994	1994	1995	1995	1996	1996	1997	1997	1998	Change
APPROPRIATIONS	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	98/97
Warrant Articles '97										
97#6 Dump Truck, 3rd payment							14,352	929		
97#7 Fire Equip Capital Reserve							15,000	15,000		
97#8 Highway Capital Reserve							10,000	10,000		
97#10 Cemetery Cap Res Withdraw							3,000	3,000		
97#11 Polic+A351e Radios							2,000	2,000		
97#12 Police Radar							2,000	2,000		
97#13 Fire Equip Cap Res Transfer							1,700	1,700		
97#14 Fire Equip Cap Res Withdraw								0		
97#15 Cemetery Cap Res Transfer							75	75		
							48,127	34,704		
Warrant Articles '98										
98#4 Highway Improvement									50,000	
98#5 Communications Tower							Plus borrow \$20,000		10,000	
98#6 Highway Capital Reserve									20,000	
98#7 Highway Pickup Truck									17,000	
98#8 Transfer to Forestry Fund									13,000	
98#9 Fire Truck Capital Reserve									12,500	
98#10 Mann House Ramp									8,500	
98#11 Highway Plow									7,000	
98#12 Fire Dept Airpacks and Masks									5,050	
98#13 Police Radar									2,000	
98#14 Office Computer Equipment									2,000	
89#15 Transfer to Highway Cap									1,100	
									148,150	

2/20/98	1994	1994	1995	1995	1996	1996	1997	1997	1998	Change
APPROPRIATIONS	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	98/97
SUMMARY										
Town Assessments										
Total Appropriations	614,886	610,813	648,681	670,436	705,277	704,397	717,701	845,463	710,394	-1.0%
Total Warrants	60,692	60,692	42,815	42,815	59,378	59,378	48,127	34,704	148,150	207.8%
Less Revenues	230,000	228,964	230,000	270,710	250,000	321,234	260,000	402,563	294,604	13.3%
Expenses less Revenues	445,578	442,541	461,496	442,541	514,655	442,541	505,828	477,604	563,940	11.5%
Other Assessments										
School District Assessment	1071525	1025816	1151714	1119563	1151714	1141658	1198741	1128555	1,226,286	2.3%
Hillsborough County	130,409	105,745	109,975	117,508	117,508	122,428	122,428	121,092	128,154	4.7%
Total Taxation	1,647,512	1,574,102	1,723,185	1,679,612	1,783,877	1,706,627	1,826,997	1,727,251	1,918,380	5.0%
Valuation(total - exemptions)	43,598,100	44,484,550	45,463,350	44,484,550	44,284,000	43,579,450	43,579,450	43,579,450		0.0%
Budget Tax Rate	\$37.79	\$35.39	\$37.90	\$37.76	\$40.28	\$39.16	\$41.92	\$39.63	\$44.02	
Actual Rate		\$34.96		\$37.91		\$38.45		\$37.61		
School district assessment is an estimate based on all articles passing, and payments made across two fiscal years (only half the increase applied to the current year).										

TOWN OF MASON

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Fund Balance

For the year ended December 31, 1997

REVENUES:	1997	1996	1995
Highway Block Grant	\$57,472	\$53,282	\$53,540
Shared revenue	29,331	30,268	30,521
Other state grants	707	714	449
Property taxes	1,645,964	1,702,429	1,672,530
Yield taxes	47,317	41,570	24,046
Land use change taxes	5,528	2,000	1,780
Motor vehicle fees	119,770	113,957	100,676
Penalties and interest	15,890	24,473	19,835
Licenses and permits	4,247	2,391	2,787
Interest income	44,650	39,787	35,027
Dog licenses	2,476	2,299	2,447
Rooms & Meals Tax	13,517	10,040	16,873
Forestry Commission	0	1,255	4,920
Other	51,239	36,071	33,702
Total revenues	2,038,108	2,060,536	1,999,133
EXPENDITURES:			
General government	245,659	108,485	127,782
Cemeteries	11,717	17,309	8,172
Public safety	213,477	196,746	188,647
Highways	300,635	301,001	292,669
Sanitation	31,803	29,040	31,089
Health & Welfare	2,695	16,773	4,175
Education	1,128,555	1,141,658	1,119,563
Culture and recreation	35,840	33,779	36,321
Debt service	38,267	47,680	44,285
County taxes	121,092	122,428	117,508
Total expenditures	2,129,740	2,014,899	1,970,211
Excess (deficit) of revenues over expenditures	(91,632)	45,637	28,922
Other financing sources:			
Interfund transfers	6,200	12,500	1,620
Unexpended encumbrances	0	0	0
	6,200	12,500	1,620
Excess (deficit) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing uses	(85,432)	58,137	30,542
Fund balance beginning	266,652	208,515	177,973
Fund balance ending	\$181,220	\$266,652	\$208,515

TOWN OF MASON

Combined Balance Sheet

At December 31, 1997

ASSETS	General Fund	Capital Reserves	Trust Funds	Consr Comm	Forestry Comittee	All Funds
Cash	\$574,691	\$52,357	\$129,764	\$29,233	\$47,051	\$833,096
Debit Memo	0					\$0
Deeded property	22,378					\$22,378
Unredeemed taxes	38,453					\$38,453
Uncollected taxes	112,555					\$112,555
Total assets	\$748,077	\$52,357	\$129,764	\$29,233	\$47,051	\$1,006,482

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

Escrow funds	\$2,575					\$2,575
Encumbrances	600					600
Payroll taxes payable	634					634
Due to schools	563,048					563,048
Total liabilities	566,857	0	0	0	0	566,857
Fund balances	181,220	52,357	129,764	29,233	47,051	439,625
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$748,077	\$52,357	\$129,764	\$29,233	\$47,051	\$1,006,482

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cash on hand, January 1, 1997	513,978
Cash receipts:	
Town Clerk	122,797
Tax Collector	1,754,799
Selectmen	201,118
Interest income Fleet	991
Interest income NHPDIP	43,659
Tax Anticipation Loans	1,000,000
Interest CD	0
Total cash available	3,637,342
Selectmen's orders paid	1,716,253
Payroll disbursements	307,358
Tax anticipation loans repaid	1,000,000
Interest on tax anticipation loan	38,267
Bank service charges	773
Total monies paid out	3,062,651
Cash on hand, December 31, 1997	574,691

Jeanne Hamel, Treasurer

TOWN OF MASON BONDS

The Town of Mason has no outstanding Bonds

SUMMARY OF VALUATION

Improved & Unimproved Land	11,785,200
Assessed Value of Current Use Land	572,954
Consevation Restriction Assessment	1,700
Buildings (Mobile Homes Included)	30,371,050
Public Utilities (PSNH)	1,300,000
Valuations Before Exemptions	<u>44,030,904</u>

EXEMPTIONS

Elderly Exemptions	90,000
Solar Exemptions	9,400
	<u>99,400</u>

NET VALUE FOR TAX RATE

43,931,504

WAR SERVICE TAX CREDIT

Totally and permanently disables veterans, their spouses or widows, and the widows of veterans who died or were killed in action.....	Limit	No.	Credits
	\$1,400	2	\$2,800
All Other Qualified Persons.....	\$100	59	\$5,900

1997 TAX RATE

Town	9.57
County	2.73
School	25.31
Total Rate	<u>\$37.61</u>

REPORT OF THE MASON TRUST FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1997

	PRINCIPAL			INTEREST			TOTAL	
	Beginning Balance	Fnds Created (Expended)	Ending Balance	Beginning Balance	Interest Earned	Receipts (Disbursals)	Ending Balance Fund Balance	
TRUST FUNDS								
Boynton School	\$11,063.07		\$11,063.07	\$6,981.20	\$984.24		\$7,965.44	\$19,028.51
Stearns School	\$10,469.36		\$10,469.36	\$8,492.74	\$1,038.16		\$9,530.90	\$20,000.26
Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$21,995.33		\$21,995.33	\$4,908.76	\$1,520.97	(\$1,500.00)	\$4,929.73	\$26,925.06
Cemetery Land Improvement	\$3,785.00	(\$1,366.79)	\$2,418.21	\$947.54	\$230.06		\$1,177.60	\$3,595.81
Ellen Augusta Worcester Wilson	\$25,000.00		\$25,000.00	\$8,992.39	\$1,873.11		\$10,865.50	\$35,865.50
Whitaker-Locke Library	\$10,808.07		\$10,808.07	\$724.55	\$624.08	(\$671.71)	\$676.92	\$11,484.99
Ephraim & Martha Lucindy Hildreth	\$9,966.62		\$9,966.62	\$2,259.84	\$637.89		\$2,897.73	\$12,864.35
TOTAL TRUST FUNDS	\$93,087.45	(\$1,366.79)	\$91,720.66	\$33,307.02	\$6,908.51	(\$2,171.71)	\$38,043.82	\$129,764.48
CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS								
Highway Capital Equipment		\$11,100.00	\$11,100.00	\$956.10	\$68.82		\$1,024.92	\$12,124.92
Town Reevaluation				\$2,504.76	\$135.91		\$2,640.67	\$2,640.67
Cemetery Land Improvement*				\$1,597.99	\$35.22	(\$1,633.21)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fire Equipment	\$1,700.00	\$13,300.00	\$15,000.00	\$217.24	\$54.55		\$271.79	\$15,271.79
Library Building	\$17,000.00		\$17,000.00	\$4,089.49	\$1,230.21		\$5,319.70	\$22,319.70
TOTAL CAPITAL RESERVE FUND	\$18,700.00	\$24,400.00	\$43,100.00	\$9,365.58	\$1,524.71	(\$1,633.21)	\$9,257.08	\$52,357.08
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$111,787.45	\$23,033.21	\$134,820.66	\$42,672.60	\$8,433.22	(\$3,804.92)	\$47,300.90	\$182,121.56

This is to certify that the information contained in this report is complete and correct, to the best of our knowledge and belief:

TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS

M. Barbara Schultze

James Losee

George Schwenk

In accordance with Warrant Article 9 the Cemetery Land Purchase Capital Reserve Fund was changed to the Cemetery Land Improvement Capital Reserve Fund at the Annual Meeting of the Town of Mason on March 11, 1997

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

SUMMARY OF TAX ACCOUNTS For the year ended December 31, 1997

	Levies of: 1997	Prior
Uncollected Taxes, Jan.1, 1997:		
Property Taxes		\$159,522.52
Land Use Change Taxes		
Yield Taxes		1,888.79
Taxes Committed to Collector:		
Property Taxes	\$1,645,963.92	
Land Use Change Taxes	5,527.50	
Yield Taxes	47,317.04	
Interest & fees	197.31	956.06
Overpayments:		
Property Taxes	312.17	
Yield Taxes		
Interest & fees	34.63	39.27
Interest Collected On		
Delinquent Taxes	274.31	5,320.50
Costs Collected On		
Delinquent Taxes		
TOTAL DEBITS	\$1,699,626.88	\$167,727.14
Remitted To Treasurer During Year:		
Property Taxes	\$1,536,537.65	\$125,781.87
Land Use Change Taxes	5,300.00	
Yield Taxes	44,416.52	1,888.79
Interest On Taxes	471.62	5,568.56
Costs		708.00
Overpayments	346.80	39.27
Abatements Allowed:		
Property and Land Use Taxes		33,740.65
Yield Taxes		
Uncollected Taxes, Dec. 31, 1997:		
Property Taxes	109,426.27	
Land Use Change Taxes	227.50	
Yield Taxes	2,900.52	
TOTAL CREDITS	\$1,699,626.88	\$167,727.14

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

SUMMARY OF TAX SALES ACCOUNTS

For the year ended December 31, 1997

	Tax Sale on Account of Levies of:		
	1996	1995	Prior
Balance of Unredeemed Taxes		\$62,244.29	\$76,936.78
Taxes Sold to Town	\$34,675.19		
Interest & Costs Collected After Overpayment	1,615.26	1,158.17	6,418.43
TOTAL DEBITS	\$36,290.45	\$63,402.46	\$83,355.21
Remittances to Treasurer:			
Redemptions	\$15,027.88	\$8,711.52	\$16,947.52
Interest & Cost	1,615.26	1,158.17	6,418.43
Overpayment			0.00
Abatements of Unredeemed Taxes		35,598.06	59,118.69
Deeded to Town			
Unredeemed Taxes Year End	19,647.31	17,934.71	870.57
TOTAL CREDITS	\$36,290.45	\$63,402.46	\$83,355.21

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Cash on hand January 1, 1997	\$50
Cash received:	
Dog licenses	\$1,902
Automobile registrations	\$116,939
Title fees	\$388
Filing fees	\$1
Returned checks	\$100
State dog fees	\$574
Marriage licenses	\$418
Overpay	\$33
Municipal agent fees	\$2,442
Total cash received	\$122,797
Cash remitted to Treasurer	\$122,797
Cash on hand, December 31, 1997	\$50



Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Hastings

Town Clerk and Tax Collector

MASON HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

The winter of 1997 was a winter that had many small storms that used a lot of sand, salt and extra hours by our part time labor force. We also had a heavy wet snow storm on March 31st and April 1st that caused more tree damage to add to the tree damage of December, 1996. This left a lot of clean up work in the spring.

By having a very wet spring, we had a hard time trying to keep our gravel roads graded. We finally got our gravel roads under control, after putting gravel road stabilizer on the high volume roads.

We patched all our paved roads to keep them from breaking up. In the summer, we ditched, removed stones, shimmed, and sealed with chip seal parts of Brookline and Old County Roads (approximately 2.1 miles). We will have three years left before we have all our paved roads chip sealed.

We replaced and repaired several culverts in the fall. And we checked and cleaned many culverts during the year.

This Fall we met with the State Highway Municipal Planning and made additions and corrections on our town roads, Class V and VI. This will make our town highway maps updated.

In November we crushed approximately 3500 yards of gravel in our town pit. We hauled out approximately 2170 yards of crushed gravel during the crushing season. In 1997, we put 2807 yards of gravel on our gravel roads.

We sent several people to seminars during the year to educate them in safety on our highways and other techniques in road building such as: drainage, maintenance of paved roads and maintenance of equipment.

In January of 1997, David Cook went to a Highway Incident Command School. David Cook came back to the Highway Department and gave nine hours of training to six highway employees and several other town officials. This will give us more people to help out in a large snowstorm, hurricane or flood. Five employees attended a program given by PSNH for Mason Fire Department, in electrical emergencies. All employees have to be alert during snowstorms, floods, heavy winds, and hurricanes, for downed wires and trees in wires. We are always promoting safety for our employees and others around us.

I am very proud to say our department did not have a single workers compensation claim in 1997. This is in 12,356 hours worked by our department.

I would like to thank other departments for their help during the year. We say thank you to all individuals who have helped out in the past year. Most of all, thank you to all our employees who have at times worked long hours to keep our roads passable and safe.

Respectfully submitted,

Curtis M. Dunn

Road Agent

UPGRADING of HIGHER VOLUME GRAVEL ROADS to PAVED ROADS (A PLAN!)

1998 Wilton Road
1999 Part of Campbell Mill Road
2000 Marcel Road
2001 Part of Hurricane Hill Road
2002 Part of Starch Mill Road and Part of Abbott Hill Road
2003 Part of Campbell Mill Road
2004 Part of Hurricane Hill Road
2005 Part of Abbott Hill Road
2006 Part of Campbell Mill Road and Part of Hurricane Hill Road
2007 Nutting Hill Road from the Greenville line to the intersection of Batchelder Road

MASON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Good Bye and God bless you, Cliff! You are missed. I'm not trying to sound like a broken record, but it's time to say thank you to the Selectmen: Chairman Anne Richards, Wolfgang Millbrandt, and newly elected Ken Greene, also to Barbara Milkovits, the Town's Assistant, who keeps the Town running.

As always it is a pleasure to work with the Town Departments. As I stated last year, we only have one goal and that is to do our best for the people of Mason. Thank you, Curt Dunn, for your advice through the years. Your help is always greatly appreciated. Thank you also to Fire Chief David Cook and EMS Coordinator Cheryl Greenwood who make our jobs easier because of their understanding of our needs.

1997 Highlights

Broken ribs, not a good start to the year. Good news though, I'm OK after about nine weeks of rehab.

January, the Department received a call from a town resident who was threatened by Justin Poster to harm them. With this information, the home was put under surveillance by our Department, New Ipswich Police and units from State Police Troop B. The surveillance was maintained until notification came that Mr. Poster had been shot while resisting an arrest in Concord.

March, a theft at Parker's Maple Barn. Money was stolen from the owner's car. This resulted in hundreds of hours of investigations, arrests made, court dates done, people sent to jail and a large portion of the money recovered.

April, let's not forget the April Fool's snowstorm! Another great clean-up job done by Curt and his crew.

September, the Department responded immediately to the Ashby Police Department radio request to be on the look out for burglary suspects from their town. Within minutes of the

request, the burglars were apprehended and arrested in Mason. The four adults and one juvenile were held at gun point until back up from the Ashby Police and New Ipswich Police arrived. The suspects were transported to Hillsborough County jail.

Immediately after the burglary incident, the New Ipswich Police Department called for back up. They had a man in the woods with a 12 gauge shotgun, who threatened to kill any one in sight. After a struggle, the suspect was arrested. The gun was found in the area the next day.

November, Det. Sgt. Vint Boggis left Mason and returned to Greenville. Good Luck Vint.

December has come with news concerning John Dube. He will not be serving the Town as a full time officer, but will continue on a part time basis.

This year we had over 800 calls for service requiring paperwork, and countless other calls not requiring paperwork. We also had more than 7,140 transactions through Hillsborough County Dispatch.

THANK YOU TO THE PEOPLE OF MASON FOR YOUR SUPPORT, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert L. Malboeuf
Police Chief

AUDITOR'S REPORT - 1996

I have audited all Town departments budgeted or assigned financial responsibilities in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and their financial statements reflect an accurate assessment of the Town's financial position.

Respectfully submitted,
David Lloyd Evans
Town Auditor

REPORT of the PLANNING BOARD

This has been a very busy year for the Planning Board. During 1997, the Planning Board, under Bob Griffin's Chairmanship, continued to work updating the Master Plan. Sign Ordinance Hearings were held and new ordinances were written and accepted at Town Meeting in March 1997.

Issues at Merriam Hill Road subdivision, with erosion being a concern, were addressed several times this spring. There is bond money still being held to address any problems that the Board may want to see corrected.

In conjunction with issues raised over road conditions, the Planning Board invited the Board of Selectmen, Road Agent Curtis Dunn and Building Inspector Ken Wilson to an informational hearing for a discussion to address these issues. This was continued until new maps are available for the Road Agent.

Five home owners applied for Lot Line Adjustments. Two were "Voluntary Adjustments", no hearings necessary. One was approved and one was rescinded by the applicant. The fifth one was conditionally approved.

One Site Plan Review request resulted in a joint hearing with the BOA, Police Chief Malboeuf, and the Fire Department. Input from abutters and neighbors' concerns were addressed and an amicable solution was worked out. The second site plan review request was by an abutter to a private airstrip under construction on Old Ashby Road. This was continued to January 1998.

There were nine Informational Hearings with Minor and Major subdivisions in question held over the course of 1997. Two, required members to physically walk the bounds and others, to verify granite boundary markers being installed.

There were three Minor Subdivisions Hearings conducted and accepted as complete. Major Subdivision continued to 1998.

The Board lost two very dedicated members this year. Mike Goen resigned for personal reasons. Mike was an active member for many years and brought much knowledge to the meetings. He will be missed. Bob Griffin, Chairman, resigned after many years when he moved to Hollis. Bob brought a gentle dignity to the table. His dedication to the Town of Mason, knowledge and expertise in so many matters will be greatly missed by all members. Both members deserve many thanks. Two new members were appointed and accepted, Don MacIntosh and Dennis Meehan. Bruce Mann was elected as Chairman to complete the year.

End of the year discussion was to change the Planning Board meeting place and dates. The regular meetings will be held in the Mann House and will now be the last Wednesday of the month.

Respectfully submitted,
Mason Planning Board

MASON FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

I have to start the report this year with a sad note. In May firefighter Clifton Hastings passed away. He was a member of the department for over thirty years. Cliff was also a Forest Fire Warden for the State of New Hampshire.

Cliff was active in all parts of the department. He was in charge of the Sparks Club, which has continued to support the Association financially for as many years as Cliff was with us. Cliff was the primary radio operator at the fire station during emergency calls. He was active at the Auctions, Chicken BBQ's, Roast Beef Dinners, Ham & Bean Suppers and assorted other fund raisers. Cliff will be deeply missed by all of us.

This year, the number of automobile accidents that the department responded to, was again high. This appears to be a trend that started last year and looks like it is likely to continue. To help us handle the more serious of these accidents, the Mason Volunteer Fire Department Association is raising money to buy a hydraulic rescue tool for the department. We hope to have this tool in service this year.

The department members continued to take outside training in handling hazardous materials emergencies. The department members have also trained in rescue, electrical emergencies, and to assist at medical calls.

While doing regular maintenance on the fire apparatus this year, we found that the pump on our tanker needed to be rebuilt. A fire pump specialist did this, and we expect to get many more years of service from it.

This year the department members were again able to make a lot of the minor repairs to the fire apparatus. The members of the department, saving money for the department, also did some of the maintenance to the equipment and apparatus. Thanks to everyone who made this possible. One of the repairs that was made this year, was to temporarily patch the water tank on our 1972 Ford/Farrer Engine, which started leaking this summer. We are hopeful that this repair will last until we can replace this truck. We will be writing specifications for a new truck this year, which we hope to propose to the town at next year's town meeting.

I would like to thank the officers and personnel for their dedication and help over the past year. Also thanks to Road Agent Curt Dunn and the Highway Department, "Chief Bob" and the Police Department, the Mason Selectmen and Barbara Milkovits for their constant guidance and help. Lastly, I need to thank the families of the entire Emergency Service Personnel for their continued support, without which we could not continue to operate.

Respectfully submitted,

David P. Cook

Fire Chief

MASON FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRST RESPONDERS

The year 1997 proved to be a busy one for the First Responders. We finished the year with a total of 67 calls, a 45% increase over last year. We'll be adding another First Responder to our ranks for '98, firefighter Flip Phalon. With the addition of Flip, our members will total 12. Motor

vehicle accidents topped the list this year. These usually involve more than one patient needing assistance and are typically people from out-of-town. (Perhaps our naturally occurring speed bumps sneak up on them.) With the combined efforts of the Fire and Police Departments, we have been able to assist those in need of care, quickly and safely. Many thanks to the members of both departments.

Our hope is to provide the townspeople of Mason with quality service in a timely manner. Monthly training with the Brookline Ambulance Service continues. With Mason calls making up 29% of Brookline's ambulance calls this year, it is important that we practice working together to help things go as smoothly as possible. A big thank-you to Wes Whittier for keeping track of the paper trails, answering questions, and providing training; a never-ending job for sure.

I would like to thank the First Responders for their tireless efforts this year. Their care and compassion reflect in the faces of the patients they treat. Their hours of training and responding to emergency calls does not go unnoticed. THANKS!

May 1998 be a safe and healthy year for all of us.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Greenwood
First Responder Coordinator

TRAINING

Training in-house 1020 man-hours
(3) members completed Career level training
(2) members completed Career level II training

1997 FIRE CALLS

Assist Police	1	Mutual Aid received	7	Mutual Aid given	9
Ambulance Assist	4	Brush Fires	3	Auto Accidents	16
Smoke Investigation	2	Chimney Fires	4	Wires Down	2
Fire Alarm	1	CO Detector Activation	1	Car Fire	2
Appliance Fire	2	Total Calls	47	Total Man Hours	952.25

AMBULANCE CALLS

Motor Vehicle Accidents	12	Short of Breath	1	Falls	7
Puncture	1	Chest Pain	7	Heart Palpitations	1
Difficulty Breathing	5	Knee Pain	1	Overdose	4
Horse Accident	1	Bleeding	3	Contusion	1
Weakness	3	Dizziness	1	Transfer	3
Painful Breathing	1	Lacerations	2	Stomach Pain	1
Back Pain	2	Unresponsive	1	Leg Injury	2
Fracture	1	Seizures	2	Asthma	1
Canceled by Police	2	Fire Standby	1	Total calls:	67

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Conservation Commission was successful in our application for a National Recreational Trails Fund grant to improve the Mason Railroad Trail. With the advice of Curt Dunn and the Highway Department, we prepared a plan to stabilize the trail, which is flooding and eroding in many places. This will involve brush-cutting, grading and adding culverts. This is a nearly \$20,000 project, of which half will be reimbursed by the state, the remainder will come out of Conservation Commission funds.

Work has begun on this project. Help is needed with brush-cutting so the Highway Department can get their equipment in to do the job. Part of the grant is based on volunteer aid with brush-cutting--all trail users are encouraged to help! The stretch of Railroad Trail south of Depot Road to the state line is especially in need. Trail improvements cannot be made unless the brush is cut first.

The Commission completed the Cliff Hastings Nature Trail this past fall, named in honor of our Selectman who founded the Conservation Commission and did so much for the town over the years. The trail includes a marsh boardwalk and is on Merriam Hill Road Conservation land near the town center. Many thanks to Guy Smith, Charlie Lanni and the Laroche and Fletcher families for their work in building the boardwalk. A guide booklet for the trail has been prepared. The Commission plans to install the sign and hold a dedication for the Cliff Hastings Nature Trail this coming spring.

The Commission participated in the Nashua River Watershed Association's Stream Team water sampling program. Most of Mason lies in the Nashua River watershed. Our brooks feed into the Squannacook and Nissitissit Rivers, which are both tributaries of the Nashua River. Walker Brook, one of the headwaters of the Squannacook River, was sampled monthly from May through October. It tested clean except in August, when Bacteria counts were very high after a storm brought runoff into the brook. The source of this bacteria is likely to be in Mason, because the Greenville sampling site where Walker Brook flows into Mason, was only slightly over the limit for bacteria in August. Sampling sites will be designed next season to try and locate the potential source of this bacteria.

The Commission has not made much progress on the Water Resource Management and Protection Plan this year. Most of our time was spent on the trail projects, as well as on wetlands questions. We hope to do more on the Water Resource Plan this coming year. Planners at the Southwest Regional Planning Commission have told us that Mason is qualified to be a groundwater protection area, because everywhere in town people depend on the groundwater as a basic water source. It is extremely unlikely that water from anywhere else is going to be piped into our homes, so it's up to us to protect our water!

Respectfully submitted,

Conservation Commission

HOME HEALTH CARE and COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.

Report to the Town of Mason
January 1, 1997 - December 31, 1997
Annual Report

In 1997, Home Health Care and Community Services (HCS) continued to provide home care and community services to the residents of Mason. The following information represents a projection of Home Health Care and Community Services' activities in your community in 1997. The projection is based on actual services provided from January through September 1997 and an estimate of usage during October, November and December.

SERVICE REPORT

<u>Services Offered</u>	<u>Services Provided</u>
Nursing	111 Visits
Physical Therapy	0 Visits
Speech Pathology	0 Visits
Occupational Therapy	2 Visits
Homemaker	0 Hours
Home Health Aide	161 Visits
Medical Social Work	0 Visits
Child Health Program	0 Visits
Children Outreach	0 Visits
Nutritionist	0 Visits
Total Unduplicated Residents Served:	40

Regularly scheduled wellness clinics, child health clinics, prenatal and hospice care are also available to residents. Town funding partially supports these services.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The actual cost of all services provided in 1997 with all funding sources is projected to be \$15,706.32.

These services have been supported to the greatest extent possible by Medicare, Medicaid, other insurances, grants and patient fees. Services that were not covered by other funding have been supported by your town.

For 1998, we recommend an appropriation of \$1,500.00 to continue home care services at the current level.

Thank you for your consideration.

MASON PUBLIC LIBRARY

This was a spirited year for the Mason Public Library. We've continued to develop new resources such as the public access computer while also developing our collections of books, magazines, and audio-visual materials for the cultural and informational enrichment of our community.

We regret the resignation of two valuable trustees, Bette Lewicke and Linda Martin-Berke who certainly contributed to the library and its programs. Their efforts will not be forgotten. We were fortunate to recruit two enthusiastic replacements: Sue Wolpert, our former library aide, and Lynn (Costello) McCann, a new resident.

The Poetry Contest in its fourth year yielded the publication "Seasons" with art work done by Linda Martin-Berke. There were 28 entries this year. The winning title "Ruth" by Christine Hague of Weare, NH was read at the Strawberry Festival in June.

Preschool Storytimes were offered for several weeks in the spring and fall. Thanks to the library aide, Denise Ginzler, for all her stories, songs and crafts. The MPL was selected by Book Nooks & Krannies in Amherst to benefit from a promotional event which featured Arthur the Aardvark. As a result, the children's collection received 31 new additions.

We had another successful Book and Bake Sale in June due to volunteer efforts of Betty Chapman, our trustees, staff, and the donors of used books and baked goods.

The summer reading program, "Take us to your Readers" was kicked off by entertainer Judy Pancoast's "Kid Pop!" program. Thanks to Diana LeBlanc and Pam Steinberg for applying to the NHSL and the Arts Council for the grant that helped to provide for this wonderful program. Ten summer program participants created a video entitled "War or Peace?", involving a murder mystery at an alien peace conference. The program ended with an evening of stargazing and stories at the ball field. (Thanks to those involved!) Forty two children participated in the reading program and received certificates and book credits at The Toadstool Bookshop in Milford.

For adults the library offered another tutorial on Internet searching. A dozen people gained experience with the assistance of Lisa Malboeuf. This winter Ben Morse returned for an evening of traditional Christmas caroling. This holiday season the library welcomed more than fifty people to the Mann house for a family program of stories, songs, and crafts.

Currently, the Library Trustees and staff are working very hard to write a technology plan to be eligible for discounts and funding to support the development of our computer systems, FAX, and web page. We are also working on the library's general policies that are due to be updated.

A flurry of activity ended the year with the much needed repair of the roof leaks and repair of the water damaged walls and ceiling. Thank you to the Town for their help with the arrangements for this job.

Finally, we want to applaud the loyalty and generosity of our volunteers throughout the year including Betty Chapman, Pam Steinberg, Mary Broden, Peter McCann, Karen Johnson, and Jonathan Mann.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Calderan
Lynn McCann
Sue Wolpert
Library Trustees

MASON PUBLIC LIBRARY

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 1997

January 1, 1997 Account balance 1902.43

Receipts:

Town Budget	23,058.78
Gifts for books, magazines, software, and programming	150.00
Fundraising -poetry contest, book/bake sales, refunds, etc.	551.80
Investment interest (Whitaker-Locke and Technology funds)	1,234.31
Fees, fines and lost books	62.00
Program grants	50.00
NOW checking account interest (Jan-Dec)	33.17
	<u>25,140.06</u>

Expenditures:

Salaries	16,596.85
Payroll tax	1,269.48
Workers Comp	60.00
Dues & fees	687.70
Postage	75.00
Programming	620.99
Supplies	426.09
Telephone	1,036.44
Travel	230.00
Technology	73.97
Books	2,914.89
Equipment maintenance	67.00
	<u>24,058.41</u>

Returned to Town General Fund (43.78)

December 31, 1997 Account balance 3,067.63

OPERATIONS STATISTICS

	<u>Catalogued books</u>	<u>Pbk. Books</u>	<u>Audio</u>	<u>Video</u>
Added to collection	487	117	12	54
Lost and withdrawn	249	89	1	3
Total collection	9084	1,240	186	337
Added by donation	257	117	12	54
Added by purchase	230	0	0	0
 Total registered borrowers	 598			
Library programs	28			
Program participants	378			
Items borrowed from library	8,890			
Interlibrary loans:				
Borrowed from other libraries	149			
Lent to other libraries	66			

REPORT OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR

There have been twenty-five (25) Building Permits issued during 1997. They were issued for the following: (and the total valuation is also listed):

7	Permanent Dwelling	654,928
6	Additions to Home	129,984
3	Porch Additions to Home	15,050
1	Deck Addition to Home	10,877
1	Deck & Gazebo Addition to Home	6,045
1	Renovation of Existing Home	8,000
1	Finish Cellar of Home	10,054
3	Barns	24,098
1	Garage	4,341
1	Septic Repair	3,000
		<u>866,377</u>

Of the seven permanent dwellings, one was a renewal permit.

There have been four Oil Burner Permits issued. A permit is required for installing and operating oil burning equipment which includes replacement oil burners and/or oil tanks. The House and Waterhole Numbering System is continually being upgraded. This year I will have to visit more homes to verify residences. It would be more beneficial if all residents would use their correct house numbers and have them on their mail boxes or posted in full view.

I hold Office Hours at the Mann House on Tuesday evenings by appointment. Please call 878-2894 for your appointment.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth B. Wilson

Building Inspector

REPORT OF THE MASON FORESTRY COMMITTEE

This past year the Town's forester assisted the Selectmen in cleaning up and resolving a timber trespass issue on lot F-41. An abutter to the Town's lot L-27 is planning selective thinning and the Mason Forest Committee had the opportunity to investigate considering including Lot-27 as part of this thinning project. This was being considered because lot L-27 is currently land locked and the abutters' thinning project would allow access. After discussions with the Town forester, Bill Downs, the committee decided to leave Town lot L-27 out of the upcoming thinning. This decision was based on the present condition of the areas' existing forest and the forester's recommendation that the lot should be left alone to serve as a wildlife habitat area. In the coming year, we hope to continue working with everyone to oversee the activities among our Towns' forests.

Respectfully submitted,

Mason Forestry Committee

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY TRUSTEES

The year 1997 was a year of accomplishment for the cemeteries. Along with mowing, raking, and fertilizing, we had to cut many dead branches from trees that appear to be dying in Prospect Cemetery. These trees may have to be cut in the near future.

In the new section of Prospect Cemetery, we finished the gravel road, graded all the grass areas and seeded them. We set bounds for 50 lots, which can now be sold as needed.

In Pleasant View Cemetery, we installed a new iron gate. This gate was designed and created by Channing B. Mould, a Mechanical Engineer who works at Fletcher's Quarry here in Mason. He also made the new gate for Tarbell or Pole Hill Cemetery on Brookline Road and will be creating another gate for Pratt Annex Cemetery on Russell Road in 1998. We are indeed fortunate to have Mr. Mould create these additions to our town.

In 1998 we plan to place more bounds in Prospect Cemetery and do some additional grading and seeding after the spring run-off. We will have additional spring clean-up this year because the early snow covered some of our leaves.

Respectfully submitted,

Wallace Brown

Arthur Rafter

Robert Larochelle

Cemetery Trustees



DEATHS and/or BURIALS in the TOWN of MASON

for the year ending December 31, 1997

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Cemetery</u>
Nov. 24, 1996	Lillian L. Morley	Mason	Prospect Hill
Dec. 6, 1996	Harold F. Elliott	Tucson, AZ	Prospect Hill
Jan. 4	Virginia P. Godin	Fitchburg, MA	Prospect Hill
Feb. 19	Harry L. Morley	Mason	Prospect Hill
Mar. 19	Guy Porter Washburn	Mason	Cremated
May 21	Clifton W. Hastings	Mason	Prospect Hill
July 9	Jeremy R. Brundige	New Ipswich	Prospect Hill
July 23	Carl E. Witty	Gainesville, FL	Prospect Hill
July 28	Agnes Devens	Milford	Prospect Hill
Aug. 14	Blanche Harris	Pepperell, MA	Prospect Hill
Oct. 14	Doris E. Ready	Fitchburg, MA	Calvary Waltham, MA
Dec. 12	Virginia M. Currier	Mason	Cremated
Dec. 23	Paul C. Gillis, Jr.	Mason	Cremated

MARRIAGES REGISTERED in the TOWN of MASON
for the year ending December 31, 1997

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Married by</u>
Mar. 29	Peter J. McCann		Charlotte N. Hastings
	Lynn M. Costello	Mason	Justice of the Peace
May 23	Theodore E. Stewart	Mason	Andrew Cryans
	Hazel L. Marshall	Knoxville, TN	Clergy
July 26	Richard A. Addonizio		Dorothy M. Morgan
	Lynda L. Davey	Mason	Justice of the Peace
Aug. 23	Stephen G. Reinhart	Erie, PA	Benjamin Thompson Jr.
	Linda A. Faatz	Mason	Justice of the Peace
Sept. 6	William I. Marco, Jr		Carl W. Chandler
	Laura L. Bonney	Mason	Justice of the Peace
Sept. 27	Andrew E. Dunn		Peter Stevens
	Karen Jarrell	Mason	Clergy
Oct. 12	Charles W. Bowman III		Bernard F. Robida
	Janet R. Pelletier	Mason	Justice of the Peace
Nov. 8	Jerry L. Anderson		Barbara L. Milkovits
	Jessica C. Bennett	Centerville, MA	Justice of the Peace



BIRTHS in the TOWN of MASON
for the year ending December 31, 1997

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Hospital</u>	<u>Parents</u>
May 12	Rhys A. Schueren	Southern NH Regional Nashua	Robin Fae Adams Harry T. Schueren III
May 18	Sydney R. Wheeler	St. Joseph Nashua	Nancy J. Curran Brian M. Wheeler
July 4	William Patterson	Elliot Hospital Manchester	Kimberly E. Fitzgerald Richard G. Patterson
July 26	Regan S. Benoit	St. Joseph Nashua	Donna M. Willey Brian D. Benoit
Aug. 30	Luke R. Nadeau	Southern NH Regional Nashua	Melanie B. Bosse Mark R. Nadeau
Oct. 29	Joshua A. LaLancette	Southern NH Regional Nashua	Cheryl A. Kimball Robert J. LaLancette
Oct. 31	Ava L. Jones	St. Joseph, Nashua	Carol A. Cormier Donald G. Jones, Jr.



TOWN MEETING March 11, 1997

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Catherine Schwenk. The reading of the Warrant through Article 3 was waived.

Polls were declared open at 12:04 pm. Checklist total was 729. Polls were closed at 7:09 p.m., after 108 had voted. There was one absentee ballot.

Results of the elections were as follows:

Selectman for 3 years:	Kenneth Greene	101
Auditor for 1 year:		
Library Trustee for 3 years:	Lynn Costello	98
Trustee of Cemeteries for 3 years:	Robert B. Larochelle	95
Trustee of Trust Funds for 3 years:	George G. Schwenk	104

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Mason Ordinance, Appendix A, paragraph 2 by replacing "and any revisions thereafter" with "as reissued with an effective date of December 1, 1992, and any revisions there after", or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 2. This was voted at the polls. 90 yes, 10 no.

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to replace the current Article IV, section O of the Town of Mason Planning Ordinance:

O. Property owners of enterprises in Mason shall be allowed two advertising signs on the premises, such signs not to total over fifteen square feet in area, one or more signs pertaining to the lease, sale or use of a lot or building on which placed; and directional signs, provided that said signs (1) do not exceed two square feet in areas, and (2) do not exceed one sign in any two mile length of road, not including those to indicate changes in direction. No sign shall be neon, animated or flashing.

with the following:

O. Advertising signs in Mason, with the exceptions of directional signs described in paragraph O.1.b. below, must be on the property on which the enterprises being advertised is located. Such signs shall conform to the following provisions:

1. Signs in the GRAF district (as defined in Article V) in Mason are subject to these stipulations:
 - a. Signs in Mason must conform to the following classes:
 1. Class 1: A single free standing sign is allowed. The total are of the sign board shall not exceed fifteen square feet in area; both sides of the sign may be used. The top of the sign board shall not exceed twelve feet in height.
 2. Class 2: Signs affixed to the building housing the enterprise are allowed. The total area of the sign or signs shall not exceed fifteen square feet in aggregate area. None of these signs shall be attached to or protrude above the roof.
 3. Class 3: In addition, a single temporary sign is allowed, only for purposes of indicating that the premises is for sale or lease. This sign may be either free standing in which case it must conform to the provisions in paragraph O.1.a.1; or affixed to the building, in which case it must conform to the provisions in paragraph O.1.a.2.

- b. In addition, directional signs may be placed on property other than that on which the enterprise is located but only with the consent of the owner of the property. These signs shall not be in the town or state right-of-way. Each sign is restricted to no more than one and one half square feet in area. For a given enterprise, no more than one sign shall be placed within any two mile section of road; with the exception that if directional signs are required at more than one corner within a two mile section of road, such additional signs shall be allowed. No enterprise shall have more than twelve directional signs within the Town of Mason.
 - c. No sign shall be neon, animated or flashing.
 - d. No sign or lighting for a business shall be positioned in such a manner that it impedes the vision or line of sight of drives in or on public ways, nor cause glare or direct lighting on any adjacent property.
2. Signs in the VR district (as defined in Article V) in Mason shall comply with the requirements listed in O.1. and further shall be limited to fifteen square feet in aggregate area, not including a temporary sign as defined in paragraph o.1.b.
 3. Signs in the Historic District (as defined in Article V in Mason shall comply with the requirements listed in O.1., shall be limited to fifteen square feet in aggregate area, not including a temporary sign as defined in paragraph o.1.b., and must be approved by the Historic District Commission.
 4. Existing signs on enterprises in Mason at the time of this amendment are exempt from the amended provisions. However, if an existing sign is changed or removed, any replacement must conform to the amended provisions.

or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 3. This was voted on at the polls. 81 yes, 24 no.

The meeting was re-opened at 8:00 pm. Mrs. Schwenk reviewed the procedure we would follow. Note was made of the fire and emergency exits. Mrs. Schwenk introduced those sitting at the head table. She expressed thanks to all involved with the election process.

The colors were presented by Scouts Nathan Archambault and Jesse Knisley from Troop # 264. They led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. State Representative Jeffrey C. MacGillivray brought greetings from the Legislature.

Reference was made to the fact that the Town Reports were not available as required by RSA 40:4. A motion was made, seconded and passed to continue with the meeting. A motion was made, seconded and passed to waive the reading of the Warrant.

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to modify the elderly exemptions from property tax based on an assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$10,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$15,000; for a person 80 years of age or older, \$20,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least five years, own real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least five years. In addition the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$18,400 or, if married, a combined net income of not more than \$26,400 and own net assets not in excess of \$35,000.

A motion was made by John Lewicke and seconded by Bette Lewicke to insert after "\$26,400" and own net assets not including domicile". This motion passed.

Article 4. The Town voted to modify the elderly exemptions from the property tax in the Town of Mason based on an assessed value; for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$10,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$15,000; for a person 80 years of age or older, \$20,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least five years, own real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least five years. In addition the tax payer must have a net income of not more than \$18,400, or if married a combined net income of not more than \$26,400; and own net assets not including domicile in excess of \$35,000.

Article 5. The Town voted to raise and appropriate by taxation or borrowing, or otherwise the sum of Seven Hundred Seventeen Thousand Seven Hundred one Dollars (\$717,701) for the operation and expenses of the Town for the year ensuing.

The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Schwenk had reviewed the line items. Questions were raised about the copier leased by the Library. It seemed to have been inoperable most of the time. The copier is to be returned. The telephone expenses were noted. The increase is due to the Internet now available to residents. Concern was shown about the almost \$10,000 increase in the recycling center. The Police budget was questioned about the gradual increases over the years. The Town has grown of course, thus more police activity. Also, the need of a third full time Police Officer was discussed.

Article 6. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,352 for the third payment of the lease for the Highway Department's dump truck as voted for at Town Meeting, March 1995.

The vote was unanimous.

Article 7. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to be added to the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

The vote was unanimous.

Article 8. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

The vote was unanimous.

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of an existing Cemetery Land Purchase Capital Reserve Fund to the Cemetery Land Improvement Trust Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

Mrs. Schwenk mentioned that it would need a 2/3's vote. A motion was made by James Losee and seconded by George Schwenk to strike "Trust Fund" after Cemetery Land Improvement and substitute "Capital Reserve Fund". The motion passed.

Article 9. The Town voted to change the purpose of an existing Cemetery Land Purchase Capital Reserve Fund to the Cemetery Land Improvement Capital Reserve Fund.

The vote was unanimous.

Article 10. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to withdraw Three Thousand Dollars (\$3000) from the Cemetery Land Improvement Trust Fund for the purpose of installing lot markers and continuing work in the new cemetery, or take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made by James Losee and seconded by George Schwenk to change the words "Trust Fund" to Capital Reserve Fund" after the words Cemetery Land Improvement and add the words " or lesser amount available" after the words "Three Thousand Dollars (\$3000)". This motion passed.

Article 10. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen to withdraw Three Thousand Dollars (\$3000) or lesser amounts available from the Cemetery Land Improvement Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of installing lot markers and continuing work in the new cemetery. The vote was unanimous.

Article 11. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2000) for the purchase of portable radios for the Police Department.

Article 12. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2000) to replace the highway radar for the Police Department.

Article 13. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$1700) from surplus. These amounts received in 1996 from the sale of surplus Fire Department equipment to be added to the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. The vote was unanimous.

Article 14. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen to withdraw One Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$1700) from the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing fire equipment.

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75) from surplus, these amounts received in 1996 from the sale of cemetery lots, to be added to the Cemetery Land Improvement Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

A motion was made by George Schwenk and seconded by James Losee to change "Land Improvement Fund" to "Land Improvement Trust Fund". This motion carried.

Article 15. The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75.00 from surplus. These amounts received in 1996 from the sale of cemetery lots, to be added to the Cemetery Land Improvement Trust Fund.

The vote was unanimous.

Article 16. The Town voted to adopt the provisions of RSA 202-A:4-d to authorize the Library Trustees to accept gifts of personal property, other than money, which may be offered to the library for any public purpose, provided, however, that no acceptance of personal property by the library trustees shall be deemed to bind the town or library trustees to raise, appropriate or expend any public funds for the operation, maintenance, repair, or replacement of such personal property. Such authorization shall remain in effect until rescinded by vote of town meeting.

The vote was unanimous.

Article 17. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen and the Road Agent to sell or dispose of surplus equipment from the Highway Department.

Article 18. The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen and the Fire Chief to sell or dispose of surplus equipment and vehicles from the Fire Department.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 9:56 p.m.

We adjourned at 9:56 p.m. Sine Dai
Charlotte N. Hastings, Town clerk

**REPORT OF TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDEN AND STATE
FOREST RANGE**

To aid your Forest Fire Warden, Fire Department and State Forest Ranger, contact your local Warden or Fire department to find out if a permit is required before doing any open burning. Violations of RSA 227-L:17, the fire permit law and the other burning laws of the State of New Hampshire are misdemeanors punishable by fines of up to \$2000 and/or a year in jail. Violators are liable for all fire suppression costs.

There are ten Forest Rangers who work for the NH Division of Forests and Lands, Forest Protection Bureau. State Forest Rangers are available to assist communities with forest fire suppression, prevention and training programs as well as the enforcement of forest fire and timber harvest laws. If you have any questions regarding forest fire or timber harvest laws, please call our office at 271-2217.

There are 2400 Forest fire Wardens and Deputy Forest Fire Wardens throughout the state. Each town has a Forest Fire Warden and several Deputy Wardens who assist with forest fire suppression, prevention, and law enforcement. The 1997 fire season was a safe period for wildland firefighters with no major injuries reported. The drought conditions experienced during the early summer months was a significant factor resulting in the total number of fires reported during the season.

The State of New Hampshire operates 15 fire towers, 2 mobile patrols and 3 contract aircraft patrols. This early detection and reports from citizens aid the quick response from the local Fire Department.

1997 FIRE STATISTICS
Forest Ranger Reported Fires
Number of Fires Statewide 726
Number of Fires Hillsborough County 145

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan Nowel, Forest Ranger
David P. Cook, Forest fire Warden

1797 History Highlights

Jan. 3, Miss Betsy Mann, daughter of Benjamin Mann was married to Samuel Wilson, who returned from Troy. The Rev. Ebenezer Hill performed the ceremony.

March, Town Meeting brought forth the following officers for the year:

Benjamin Mann - Moderator Joseph Barrett- Town Clerk - Treasurer - Selectman

Representative Major James Wood - Selectman Captain Benjamin Barrett - Selectman

July 12, Death of Rebecca H. Hill, wife of Rev. Ebenezer Hill, The Little Minister of Mason.

Nov. The Selectmen ordered the treasurer to pay S.M. 25 cents in full for killing a crow. The town by a vote allowing the same, a bill for articles furnished for building a School House, by Timothy Dakin, a merchant in the town, the following prices appear of this date. Board nails, 8s per M Shingle nails 2s 4d per M Double tens 6s for 500 Pair of door hinges 4s 6d A bushel of lime 2s 6d.

The first horse drawn vehicle in town was a specially made chaise for Rev. Ebenezer Hill.

Births - from Nov. 1796 to Nov. 1797 - 41

Marriages for the year - 8

Deaths for the year 15 - over 70 - 1

1790 Census state population figure of 922

This information was taken from the Mason Bicentennial Book by Elizabeth O. Jones as well as the History of Mason book by John B. Hill.

